Contracts for
land.

Sec. 11. That in the absence of any contract or contracts in relation to the land through which said railway or any of its branches may pass (signed by the owner thereof or his agent or some claimant, or person in possession thereof, and which may be confirmed by the owner thereof) it shall be presumed that the land over which said road or any of its branches may be constructed, together with a space of one hundred feet on each side of the centre of said railway and the additional space provided for in the foregoing section, has been granted to said company by the owner or owners thereof; and said company shall have good right and title thereto, and shall hold and enjoy the same as long as the same shall be used for the purposes of said railway, unless the person or persons owning the land at the time that part of the said railway which may occupy said land was finished or those claiming under him, her or them shall apply for an assessment for the value of said lands as heretofore directed within two years next after that part of the road which may be on said land was finished, and in case the same owner or owners or those claiming under him, her or them shall not apply within two years next after the said part was finished, he, she or they shall forever be barred from recovering said land or having any assessment or compensation therefor; but nothing herein contained shall affect the rights of *feme coverts* or infants until two years after the removal of their respective disabilities.

State lands given
to company.

Sec. 12. That all lands not heretofore granted to any person now appropriated by law to the use of the State and being within one hundred feet of the center of (or within the space above authorized to be taken for) the said railway which may be constructed by said company, shall vest in said company so soon as the line of its railway is definitely laid out through it; and any grant of said lands thereafter shall be void. This shall not extend to land belonging to the school fund.